

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
COUNTY/STATE LIAISON REPORT
JANUARY 2002 - ED WILLIAMS

ISSUES, EVENTS AND ACTIONS – December 2002/January 2003

Proposed State Budget Cuts for 2003/04 – Governor Gray Davis released his proposed 2003/04 fiscal year budget on Friday, January 10, 2003. Proposed reductions for the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) total \$6,485,000 and 62.5 positions. Proposed cuts include: to the Buy California, Agriculture and Environmental Policy, Public Affairs, Agricultural Export Programs, and out-of-state travel - \$1.96 million; to Agricultural Inspection Stations, Weed and Vertebrate/Bio-control Program reorganization, and Exotic Pest Research - \$3.04 million; and to in reimbursements for the Chemistry Laboratory for pesticide residue and water monitoring samples - \$1.49 million. The proposed budget takes nothing out of local assistance or county contracts for services. Several positive budget change proposals were included including authorization to spend federal funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant, enhanced detection trapping, and Sudden Oak Death; and the state funded Medfly Preventative Release Program. This proposal is the first step in the adoption of the 2003/04 budget. It is doubtless that the legislature and other groups will give input, and changes will be made before a new budget is adopted, sometime after June 30, 2003.

State Budget Cuts 2002/03 - Governor Gray Davis has released his mid-year 2002/03 fiscal year budget reductions. The list of expenditure reductions totals \$10.2 billion over 2002-03 and 2003-04. For Plant and Pest Programs, the Administration is proposing to reduce the Weed and Vertebrae Program and Biocontrol Program by \$750,000, the Exotic Pest Control Program by \$230,000, and out-of-state/out-of-country travel by \$115,000.

Livestock Compensation Program - November 21, 2002. 27 counties have been declared as agricultural disaster areas due to drought and producers in these counties are now eligible for low interest emergency loans and the livestock compensation program (LCP). The counties are: Butte, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Shasta, Sierra, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tuolumne, Ventura and Yolo. Colusa and Tulare Counties have also been declared as agricultural disaster areas. Emergency loans are also available in counties contiguous to those named above. Payment rates are:

Beef Cows	\$18.00/head	Dairy Cows	\$31.50/head
Stockers	\$13.50/head	Buffalo & Beefalo	\$18.00/head
Goats	\$4.50/head	Sheep	\$4.50/head

Producers will certify the number of eligible animals owned as of June 1, 2002. The animals must have been owned for 90 days or more before and/or after June 1. Producers will be subject to \$2.5 million gross income limit, and payments are limited to \$40,000 per person.

Air Quality - Agricultural and Environmental Stewardship Staff is working with the Dairy Subcommittee of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to develop a presentation that can be used to explain the need for dairy air quality research. This will be used to promote the Action Plan developed by the group. Air quality staff has been invited to give a presentation on "Air Quality Issues Related to California Agriculture -

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Present and Future" at the American Society of Agronomy in Modesto on February 5 & 6. Restoration of CDFA's 3/4 Mill Tax Share - On January 1, 2003 the Department of Pesticide Regulation will resume collecting CDFA's share (three-fourths mill per dollar of agricultural pesticide sales) of the pesticide mill tax to fund the Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis. Governor Davis had previously suspended collection of CDFA's mill tax share for calendar year 2002 due to OPCA's "prudent management of existing funds."

Animal Agriculture Regulations - CDFA Agricultural and Environmental Stewardship is reviewing recently released federal and regional regulations for confined animal facilities to assess the impact to animal agriculture. The federal regulations are especially significant to California because of the number of facilities that will be regulated. It is the intent of the regulations to regulate only 5% of the facilities nationwide with a focus on the largest facilities. However, based on the animal population threshold levels specified by the regulations, the Central Valley Regional Water Board estimates that close to 70% of the dairy facilities in the Central Valley and virtually all of the poultry facilities will be regulated. Regulated facilities will be required to submit an application with extensive production information, prepare a nutrient management plan that addresses waste management including disposal on land, conduct soils and manure analysis, maintain records, and submit annual reports. Facilities subject to the federal regulations are vulnerable to citizen lawsuits for non-compliance.

County Exotic Newcastle Disease Surveillance - Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) positive premises have now been confirmed in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura Counties. Affected premises include five commercial egg-laying flocks in Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Local officials in affected counties have declared states of emergency. Governor Gray Davis and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman have declared a state of emergency for the affected area. The federal quarantine was expanded on January 8, 2003 to include all of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. CDFA and USDA personnel resources have been severely stretched with END and several other serious animal diseases in California.

CDFA and USDA are asking Calaveras, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Benito, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Ventura County Agricultural Commissioners to conduct surveillance activities for END. Activities would be tailored to find neighborhoods and households with backyard fowl, monitor swap meets and other markets selling live birds, and disseminate information to feed stores other public agencies and private veterinarians. These surveillance activities would be conducted through cooperative agreements between counties and the USDA, under the direction of END Incident Command staff in Southern California. Teams of approximately 17 staff would be established in each cooperating county depending on expected workload. If all goes smoothly, and pending approval by cooperating agencies and county boards of supervisors, some counties should be able to begin hiring and implementing their surveillance programs early in February. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Dr. Heidi Hamlen at (916) 654-1447, or Ed Williams at (916) 653-6649. Reports of sick or dying birds should be relayed to the Exotic Newcastle Disease Operation Center at (800) 491-1899, or (562) 795-1941.

Request for Exotic Newcastle Disease Help - The Exotic Newcastle Disease project is in need of managers (especially those with planning, budget & purchasing experience), supervisors, clerical and bilingual assistance. CDFA is requesting volunteers from counties not involved in developing surveillance programs, to work two terms, consisting of 10 days-on with four days-off in the middle. Staff would be working 12-hour shifts. The project operates seven days a week. The time period CDFA is asking for help is from now until the end of April. A roster of available help will be developed and an END project manager will contact those who have signed up to make arrangements when help is needed. The Exotic Newcastle Disease project will cover per diem expenses and pay salaried overtime cost. It is doubtful that regular salary costs could be recovered. If you have staff who would be interested in participating, please contact Ed Meyer at (925) 646-5250 or Lana Easterwood, at (916) 653-6649.

Looking for Seasonal Employees Exotic Newcastle Emergency Project – Seasonal county employees who are interested in applying to work in Southern California for the Exotic Newcastle Disease Project should fill out a Federal application as soon as possible. For federal application forms go to http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/of0612.pdf & http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/of0306.pdf on the internet. **It is important that every question be answered fully and completely.**

- Job Title: Animal Health Aide
- Announcement No.: leave blank
- Grade: GS 3
- Entry level salary is \$10.38/hr (contingent on level of experience)
- Location: Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, San Diego and Ventura counties
- Must be US Citizens
- Temporary position, with 180 day limit, may be let go sooner as work dictates
- Completed applications should be faxed to Lisa Quiroz, at (562) 795-1938 or 795-1976.

Duties involve work around euthanizing poultry, capturing live birds, removing poultry carcasses, and clearing debris from infected sights. If you have problems with dead and dying birds, do not apply.

Division of Measurement Standards January 2003 Report, Excerpts –

DMS staff will attend Deputy Sealer meetings this month to discuss the County Monthly and Annual Report forms. Proposed changes are designed to streamline and simplify the forms and the information gathered. At the 2002 CACASA Winter conference the Board of Directors voted to have various Deputy Sealer groups review this issue before moving forward with any changes. Comments should be sent to both DMS and Bill Stephans, Vice President of Weights and Measures.

The Statewide Automated Checkout System, Price Verification Survey was completed in December 2002. The information is being compiled and the results will be issued in a DMS Notice as soon as possible.

DMS will be distributing a complete set of Procedure Manuals to each county at the

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CACASA Interim Board of Directors meeting February 5th & 6th. There has been a major re-write of all of the procedure manuals. They have all been reviewed and updated and will be available in CD format.

The Measurement Compliance Quantity Control Specialists, in cooperation with the County Sealers, and at their request, are continuing to study moisture loss in prepackaged cheese. More than twenty years ago the courts ruled that states must allow reasonable variation in net quantities when those variations are due to moisture loss occurring during normal distribution. Some officials are concerned that some commonly applied moisture loss allowances may no longer be appropriate due to modern packaging materials and techniques. This study will help determine the moisture loss for one specific commodity, vacuum-packed cheese. This study will continue through the expiration dates of the various cheeses being studied.

DMS has installed an entire series of guides, including the latest, "Quantity Control Information Guide" on the Division's website during January 2003. The information guides were developed to provide valuable information to the public, counties, and the weights and measures community.

Certified Farmers' Market Emergency Regulations - The CFM Waiver Program was created to provide assistance to certified producers directly affected by the Valley Center Mexican Fruit Fly quarantine. Emergency regulations, operative for 120 days from adoption, have been developed to address their concerns and filed with the Office of Administrative Law and adopted on December 24, 2002. A Compliance Agreement is required from affected farmers who wish to participate in the CFM Waiver Program. These certified farmers are unable to move their product outside the quarantine zone and participate in farmers' markets. The proposed emergency regulation will provide a means to utilize second certificates or lease agreements creating the opportunity to maintain their participation in the farmers' market programs. The Certified Farmers' Market (CFM) Waiver Program is a cooperative effort between the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner and CDFA to provide assistance to the affected producers within the quarantine area. This agreement does not relieve certified growers from the obligation to comply with all other provisions of the Direct Marketing regulations. If you have any questions you can reach Janice Price, Supervisor, Certified Farmers' Market Program at (916) 657-2334.

California Organic Industry Cost Share Program - California is expected to receive \$700,000 for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program in April or May 2003 from the National Organic Program (NOP). CDFA is requesting the total number of clients per category with total certification costs between \$100-200, \$200-300, \$300-400, \$400-500, \$500-600, \$600-700, and above \$700 from each California organic certifier. The California Organic Products Advisory committee will review at their February 18th meeting. Based on their recommendation and comments from interested parties, CDFA expects to begin accepting applications for reimbursement in March at the following locations: The Certifiers, the county ag offices, the CDFA website, via email, US Postal system, and by fax. The NOP will reimburse up to 75% of certification costs with a maximum of \$500.00. For more information please contact Ray Green at (916) 654-0919 or rgreen@cdfa.ca.gov.

Pierce's Disease Funding Issues - Based on the funding situation with state and federal

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budgets (the federal budget has not yet been passed), it is necessary to closely monitor all expenditures for the Pierce's Disease Program. CDFA is requesting that counties provide an estimate of expected expenditures for July - December 2002 as soon as possible. If invoices have already submitted for this time period, it is not necessary to include those in the requested estimate. Only include months no invoice has previously been submitted. Please respond to Julie Lindsey by Thursday, November 21, or call (916) 322-2804 if you have questions.

Arizona Draft Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Order - The Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) recently provided CDFA with a copy of an Administrative Order, which they drafted concerning glassy-winged sharpshooter. The Order will impact California nurseries and bulk citrus handlers in infested areas that ship to Arizona. The ADA has requested assistance from the Pierce's Disease Program with finalizing the Order to meet approved regulatory language. The CDFA's Pest Exclusion Branch has been compiling responses from the nursery industry that will be incorporated into a final draft response to the ADA.

Request for Year End Report Weed Management Area Report - CDFA, Weed Management Area Coordinator Steve Schoenig is requesting a short year end accomplishment report including:

- Total people participating in WMA meetings.
- Total people directly involved in a WMA sponsored educational workshop, training, event, etc. (presenters and audience).
- Funding (including in-kind) or contributed services/materials (dollar amount) allocated/donated to WMA business, planning, events, coordinated control projects. Estimate at \$20/hour for donated time - for projects that involve the top priority species Matching funds and sources beside SB1740/AB1168 money by any monetary grants, county allocations, gifts, etc.
- Weed populations that were eradicated in 2002
- Acres of weeds controlled with SB1740/AB1168 in 2002
- Provide one or two paragraphs describing the goals of your WMA, major accomplishments for last year, and benefits to your county.

Please send digital photos: of weeds, before/after treatment; of meetings; impacts of weeds; and people killing weeds. All quarterly reports for 2003 should be finished by January 31. You can reach Steve by email at Sschoenig@cdfa.ca.gov or (916) 654-0768.

Update On The Federal Registration Maintenance Fees for Rodenticides - The USEPA mailed out Special Local Need Maintenance fees late this year. EPA states that this is a partial bill and will be supplemented with an additional bill, as the appropriation situation is clarified. However, the fees must still be paid by January 15th, 2003. CDFA will pay the maintenance fees as required. EPA's full appropriation is still pending and Congress is considering legislation that would authorize the collection of fees at significantly higher levels for the current year. 9 SLNs are noted in 2003 fee schedule. CDFA plans to renew 8 of the 9 SLNs. The 2003 fee comes to \$ 18,375.00. CDFA will delay billing until a complete accounting can be verified, but plans to bill counties prior June 30, 2003. If you have any questions please contact Duane Schnabel at 916-654-0768.

Mexican Fruit Fly, Valley Center, San Diego County - The first in a series of aerial treatments using the organically approved pesticide Spinosad was completed between January 7th and January 10th, 2003. The next aerial treatment is scheduled for January 21, 8:00 p.m.

Adult fly detections	263
Larval sites	11
Delimitation trapping area	189 square miles
Area under quarantine	117 square miles
Properties treated for quarantine compliance	571
Total acres treated	12,865.71

PEOPLE AND CONNECTIONS

Career Move - Marie LaVergne, Director of Administrative Services, has accepted a job at the Air Resources Board. Please join us in bidding Marie farewell and good luck in her new job.

Agricultural Commissioners Retiring – After 40 years of service, Merced County Agricultural Commissioner Mike Tanner has announced his retirement on January 31, 2003; Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner Earl Whitaker has announced his retirement in February; and after 36 years of service, 33 with Riverside County and 15 as AC, Jim Wallace will be retiring on April 3, 2003. Please join me in congratulating these hardworking men and wishing them a happy and prosperous retirement.

Office of Agricultural and Environmental Stewardship - Steve Shaffer, Director. You can contact CDFA's Office of Agricultural and Environmental Stewardship at (916) 657-4956.

- George Bluhm Air Quality, Climate Change, New Uses
- Casey Walsh Cady CALFED, Working Landscapes, Watersheds, Fertilizers and Soils, CESA
- Charles Goodman Manager, OPCA
- Dave Luscher OPCA – Methyl Bromide, Quarantine Treatments
- Carmen Mello Office Support
- Gerry Miller Emergency Preparedness
- Matt Reeve Drainage, Water Use Efficiency, Water Quality, OPCA
- Lisa Serrano Office Support
- John Steggall OPCA – Data analysis, IPM, Biotechnology
- Matt Summers Rice Straw, Air Quality, New Uses, Climate Change
- Barbara Todd OPCA – FQPA, Water Quality, DPR regulations
- Ken Trott CALFED, CEQA, Land Use, Working Landscapes, CESA
- Al Vargas Dairy Quality Assurance Program, Water Quality

New Address For Helene Wright - USDA-APHIS-PPQ, CA Plant Health Director, 9550 Micron Avenue, Suite G, Sacramento, CA 95827.

New National Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) Coordinator - The USDA/PPQ has appointed William D. Alej as the new national SITC coordinator. SITC focuses on the illegal movement of agricultural products into the US with the goal of identifying pathways, the players, and legislation needed to close down pest pathways. SITC officers will continue to work with their federal, state and local colleagues to identify potential problems and to build communication and cooperation.

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Fruit and Vegetable Quality Control Assignments - Gary Manning, Program Supervisor for Wine Grape Inspection, is now the acting Standardization Program Specialist. Please contact Gary, (916) 654-0919, Gmanning@cdfa.ca.gov with any questions or issues relating to Standardization and/or Agricultural Code applications. For issues related to the Navel and Valencia Orange Program, please contact Stacy Hughes of our Fresno district office, (559) 456-4506, Shughes@cdfa.ca.gov.

New CDFA Ag Resource Directory - The new CDFA Ag Resource Directory 2002 edition is now available on-line at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/card/card_new02.htm.

Mariposa County Agricultural Commissioner Address - Please take note of the correct mailing address for the Mariposa County Ag Commissioner. Mail should be sent to P.O. Box 905, Mariposa CA 95338-0905, **NOT** to the physical location at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5009 Fairgrounds Road.

Registered Service Agencies And Licensed Service Agents - The Division of Measurement Standards has prepared lists of all currently registered Service Agencies and licensed Service Agents. This information is available on the Departments notification system at www.ca.gov/countyag/postings, in pdf format, and also on the DMS website.

Pierce's Disease Program Website - The Pierce's Disease Program (PDP) has recently made the following addition to its website: Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter meeting announcement. <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdcp/gwTFMeet.htm>. For further information contact Vanessa S. Arellano at (916) 322-2804.

Electronic Forum For California Invasive Plant Issues - California Exotic Pest Plant Council has started an electronic forum for California invasive plant issues. This will help people post questions, job announcements, etc. To subscribe, simply send a BLANK email (no signature or anything) to CaliforniaWeedTalk-subscribe@topica.com. If you have any questions contact Doug Johnson, Executive Director at (510) 525-1502, by fax (801) 457-5320, or by email dwjohnson@caleppc.org.

Wildland Weed Updates and Alerts - Wildland Weed Updates and Alerts are sent periodically to those interested in California land stewardship issues. If you would like to be added to the list please contact Doug Johnson at dwjohnson@caleppc.org with "Wildland Weed Update list" in the subject line.

Agricultural Export Program Website - The Agricultural Export Program has launched its revised website, www.calagexports.com which lists current AEP trade events and information. If you have information and/or events that might be of interest to the agricultural export community, the AEP can help promote and/or publicize them on the website or in our monthly newsletter, Tradewinds. Please call Esther A. Vicente, Director, at (916) 654-0389 or email evicente@cdfa.ca.gov to contribute.

RECENT ADVISORY NOTICES – Abbreviated

Revision in Fee Exempt License To Sell Nursery Stock - Nursery Advisory No.03-2003, January 21, 2003. A change in the law for the Fee Exempt License to Sell Nursery Stock became effective January 1, 2003. The new law provides that a person is not required to pay nursery license fees if the person's sales of plants is less than \$1,000 within a fiscal

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year, provided all other existing criteria for exemption is met. If you have any questions regarding this advisory, please contact Donna Cunningham (ext. 3606) or Richard Wion (ext. 3614) at (916) 654-0435, or via e-mail at rwion@cdfa.ca.gov.

Electronic Submission of Seed Inspection Report - Seed Advisory 01-2003, January 9, 2003. The Seed Inspection Report (Report Number 6; Form 68-019) is available as an Excel file for your use to submit electronically. Please submit monthly the Seed Inspection Report (Report Number 6) to David Godfrey at dgodfrey@cdfa.ca.gov. If you have any questions regarding this advisory, please contact David Godfrey via e-mail or by calling (916) 654-0435 (ext. 3617).

Mexican Tangerines Found with Live *Anastrepha* Larvae - PEA NO. 1-2003, January 14, 2003. This is to notify all County Agricultural Commissioners that the USDA has temporarily banned the entry of Mexican tangerines from treatment facility number 211 in Mexico due to the detection of live fruit fly larvae (*Anastrepha* sp.). At least one shipment of tangerines from treatment facility number 211 entered California and was sold at a retail store in Los Angeles County. **County inspectors are advised to inspect all Mexican tangerines at retail and wholesale locations during routine quarantine visits.** County Agricultural Commissioners will be notified if this product was distributed in their county. If you have any questions concerning this advisory, you may contact any Interior Program agricultural biologist at (916) 653-1440, or via e-mail at gloughner@cdfa.ca.gov, or calbrecht@cdfa.ca.gov.

Federal Grain Inspection - Phytosanitary Advisory NO. 01-2003, January 14, 2003. This advisory is to provide clarification concerning weed seeds and certification of grain commodities based upon inspections by CDFA's Grain and Commodity Inspection (GCI) Service. GCI inspections involve detection of live weevils and other live insects. GCI inspects grain samples for the specific weed seeds destined to specific countries. When an additional declaration is required for other specific weed seeds, an analysis must be conducted to verify its presence or absence. Prior to loading, it is the exporter's responsibility to request the additional analysis. It is the responsibility of the Authorized Certification Official (ACO) to verify negative results from GCI for pests for which the importing country requires a "shipment freedom" additional declaration.

Update on Vine Mealybug – Nursery Advisory 02-2003, January 10, 2003. Vine mealybug (*Planococcus ficus*) was first detected in the early 1990's. By July 2001, Vine mealybug (VMB) had been detected in Riverside, Kern, Fresno, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. In 2002, VMB were found in Sacramento, Sonoma, Napa, Monterey and El Dorado counties. The pest is believed to be localized within these counties and county staff are taking steps to prevent further spread and to eradicate it. To limit the further spread the precautionary measures listed in this advisory are suggested. If you have any questions concerning this advisory, please contact Donna Cunningham (ext. 3606) or Umesh Kodira (ext. 3615) at (916) 654-0435, or by e-mail at ukodira@cdfa.ca.gov.

Citrus Leafminer Rating Change – PD/EP 03-01, January 2, 2003. In accordance with Policy Letter #89-2, CDFA is changing the rating for the citrus leafminer, *Phyllocnistis citrella* from "A" to "B". The citrus leafminer is currently found in numerous locations in Imperial County, at least one orchard in Riverside County, and in Baja California, Mexico. Eradication is not feasible. There are few treatment options that target the larvae within

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the citrus leaves. Biological control agents have been imported and released, and native leafminer parasites also attack the pest. CDFA is developing restrictions on the movement of citrus stock and fruit. Changing the rating will not hamper this effort. For additional information please contact Dr. Robert V. Dowell at (916) 654-1211 or rdowell@cdfa.ca.gov.

Korean Mandarin Oranges Prohibited Entry into the U.S. - PEA NO. 20-2002, December 13, 2002. Effective immediately, the USDA will not allow Korean mandarin oranges to enter the United States due to citrus canker (*Xanthomonas citri*) detections. Prior to handling any Korean mandarins, inspectors should review Pest Exclusion Advisory (PEA) 3-2001, which details the proper handling procedures of any citrus canker potentially infected material. If you have any questions concerning this advisory, you may contact any Interior Program Agricultural biologist at (916) 653-1440, or via e-mail at ljohnson@cdfa.ca.gov or calbrecht@cdfa.ca.gov.

"A"-rated Root Gall Wasp Found Again in *Rubus* spp. Root Stock from Arkansas PEA NO. 22-2002, December 19, 2002. This advisory is to notify all county agricultural commissioners that "A"-rated larvae of the root gall wasp, *Diastrophus radicum*, have been found again this year in recent shipments of bare-root *Rubus* spp. nursery stock shipped from Arkansas to San Mateo County. County agricultural inspectors should carefully inspect all shipments of bare-root *Rubus* spp. nursery stock (varieties include: blackberry, Lawton blackberry, black raspberry, raspberry, boysenberry, loganberry, and others) from Arkansas for the presence of this pest. Any questions concerning this advisory can be directed to any Interior Program agricultural biologist at (916) 653-1440 or via e-mail at peinfo@cdfa.ca.gov.

Zeltex Octane Tester Recalibration – DMS Notice P-02-3, December 19, 2002. Beginning in the first quarter of 2003, many oil companies will be changing their gasoline formulations. They will be switching from Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) to Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol). Because of this change most of the Zeltex Octane Testers in use will no longer provide accurate predictions. To provide the most accurate predictions the ethyl alcohol model must be corrected for California reformulated fuel formulations. When the necessary changes have been completed we will begin collecting samples needed to perform the model correction. A second notice will then be issued requested all units be transported to the Sacramento Petroleum Laboratory for recalibration and activation of the ethanol prediction model. Questions should be directed to Al Hebert at (916) 229-3030.

Sales of Multiple Brands of Motor Vehicle Fuel from a Single Location – DMS Notice P-02-2, December 16, 2002. This notice is to inform weights and measures officials that it is permissible for two different brands of motor vehicle fuel to be sold from the same location as long as all of the requirements of the Business & Professions Code are complied with. Mandatory price signs indicating the brand, the price of the three highest volume grades, and the type of motor vehicle fuel are required for each brand being sold. Each price sign for the different brands must be on a separate advertising medium and each advertising medium must be clearly visible from the street adjacent to the station. Separate underground storage tanks with proper labeling are necessary for each brand and grade unless a re-brand letter is obtained from the true manufacturer of the fuel authorizing the re-branding. If you have any questions regarding this notice please contact Cindy Mough at (916) 229-3050.

Potato Mop Top Virus-Free States - PEA NO. 21-200 December 13, 2002. This is to notify all county agricultural commissioners of states that have completed the Potato Mop Top Virus (PMTV) national survey with negative results, and to clarify the requirements for all shipments of seed potatoes entering California from all states. Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon (all lots destined to California are complete), Washington and Wisconsin have completed the PMTV national survey with negative results. Seed potato shipments from these states will be allowed to enter California without restrictions for PMTV. Any questions concerning this advisory can be directed to Courtney Albrecht at (916) 653-1440 or through e-mail at calbrecht@cdfa.ca.gov.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES – Abbreviated.

Exotic Newcastle Disease Eradication: A Multi-Agency Challenge - *State Resource Sharing Expedites Eradication Effort*, January 15, 2003. Governor Gray Davis' recent emergency proclamation for the Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak in southern California allows for expansion of resources needed to eradicate the deadly virus. The cooperative effort between the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and other state and federal agencies includes the dual challenges of locating and depopulating infected birds and preventing further spread of the virus. The program is extremely labor intensive. The project is a cooperative program with CDFA, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the county agriculture commissioner or animal health officer in each affected county. The OES, which utilizes California's Standardized Emergency Management System to ensure coordination of information and resources in emergency responses involving multiple agencies, coordinates overall state response to emergencies and is providing personnel to help coordinate emergency management and public works officials in the affected counties. In addition, OES has called upon the CDF for its expertise in incident management to assist CDFA with the logistics of the large-scale eradication effort.

National Agriculture Board Creates Task Force To Seek Continued Federal Funding For Specialty Crop Program - *California Ag. Secretary William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr. Named Chairman*, January 15, 2003. The National Association of State Directors of Agriculture (NASDA) has established a task force to analyze the results of the federal Specialty Crop Block Grant program and deliver its recommendations for future funding to members of Congress and the Bush administration. California Agriculture Secretary William (Bill) J. Lyons, Jr. was appointed chairman of the task force. In addition to its work on the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, the task force will participate in other agricultural issues, including working with the Foreign Agricultural Service and the U.S. Trade Representative on specialty crop exports. The task force will report to NASDA's Marketing and International Trade Policy Committee. For further information on NASDA and details of the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, please see the NASDA website at www.nasda.org.

Quarantine Boundaries For Exotic Newcastle Disease Expanded For Southern California
January 8, 2003. The USDA announced today that it has expanded quarantine boundaries for exotic Newcastle disease (END) to include those counties with END-positive flocks; Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego; and the surrounding counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Imperial, and Orange. USDA and CDFA have been working jointly with the poultry industry and residents to prevent the spread of the disease. The expanded quarantine creates a buffer zone around END infected sites and provides additional security against spread of the disease. Commercial poultry producers within the quarantine zone must comply with a mandatory reporting system that identifies increased mortality, decreased egg production, or any clinical symptoms suggestive of END. Commercial poultry producers are also being asked to increase biosecurity measures at facilities in these quarantined areas. Poultry and poultry products cannot be moved from the quarantined counties. However, eggs can be moved after they are washed, sanitized and packed in new materials. For more information regarding END visit www.aphis.usda.gov or www.cdca.ca.gov.

Organic Compound Identified For Use in San Diego County Mexican Fruit Fly Infestation -
Naturalyte approved for use under national organic rules, December 30, 2002. The California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) will soon commence an eradication program for the Mexican fruit fly in a 28-square mile area in northern San Diego County. The program will utilize the organic compound Naturalyte (active ingredient: spinosad), a naturally-occurring extract from bacteria. Naturalyte has received all necessary approvals from state and federal agencies for use as an organic treatment. Naturalyte treatments will work in conjunction with later releases of sterile Mexican fruit flies, which will breed any remaining wild flies out of existence. The first treatment is scheduled to be applied on January 7, 2003. Additional treatments will be applied at 14-day intervals. A major Mexican fruit fly infestation was first detected in San Diego County on November 21. A quarantine was implemented on December 5. California Governor Gray Davis declared a state of emergency on December 18. To date, 228 adult flies and nine larval sites have been detected within the treatment area.

More Commercial Poultry Facilities Identified With Exotic Newcastle Disease - *Regional quarantine expanded to San Diego and Orange Counties, December 30, 2002.* The California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture have received laboratory confirmation of Exotic Newcastle Disease in two additional commercial egg-laying facilities. One facility is located within the original quarantine zone in San Bernardino County. The second facility is located in San Diego County. Both facilities were identified when early symptoms of the disease were reported to practicing veterinarians. Effective immediately, the regional quarantine zone has been expanded to include San Diego and Orange Counties. While Orange County does not currently have flocks known to be infected with Exotic Newcastle Disease, the county is at risk because it is surrounded by areas infected with the virus. This is a necessary requirement to attempt to prevent further spread of the disease. Exotic Newcastle Disease had previously been confirmed at a commercial operation in Riverside County.

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Mexican Fruit Fly Quarantine Set In San Diego County - December 5, 2002. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have established a 117-square mile quarantine zone to prevent the spread of a Mexican fruit fly infestation in northern San Diego County. Products that are hosts for the Mexican fruit fly may not be shipped out of the quarantine zone unless they have been treated or processed, and are authorized by the county agricultural commissioner, USDA or CDFA. Residents and people moving through the affected zone may not move backyard fruits and vegetables from the area. The quarantine will remain in effect until eradication of the pest is officially declared, which is expected to take a number of months.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Oral Examinations for County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer and Deputy Commissioner/Sealer - We have scheduled the following oral examination review sessions for candidates who plan to take the Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, and Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures Oral Examinations. In these sessions we will discuss the process, panel structure, the type of questions you can expect, and panelists' expectations for successful candidates. Candidates will then be given an opportunity to ask questions. Sessions are scheduled for January 21, 2003, beginning at 1:00 pm, 11012 South Garfield Ave. in Southgate, and January 24, 2003, beginning at 1:00 pm, 1730 South Maple Ave. in Fresno. The final filing date for these exams was December 27, 2002. Written examinations will be held throughout California as the number of applicants and conditions warrant on Thursday, February 6, 2003. Oral examinations are tentatively scheduled for April 7 - 11, 2003, in the Sacramento Valley and Coast Area; April 14 - 17, 2003, Southern Area; April 22 - 23, 2003, Northern Area, and April 24 - 25, 2003, San Joaquin Valley Area.

Bovine Tuberculosis Meeting - January 21, 2003, Tuesday, 3:00 p.m., Tulare County Agricultural Building Auditorium, 4337 South Laspina Street, Tulare. California's bovine tuberculosis (TB) classification will be discussed in a meeting at the UC Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 4337 South Laspina Street, Tulare, at 3 p.m. following the conclusion of the South Valley Dairy Day program. The USDA recently classified a second dairy herd as positive for bovine TB. If this infection is confirmed by tissue culture, California will be downgraded from TB-Free to Modified Accredited Advanced. This downgrade will affect the movement of all breeding cattle out of California. CDFA and USDA animal health officials will discuss the effects of the downgrade on the dairy and beef industries. California's plans to regain its TB-free status, and changes in TB-test requirements for importing dairy cattle will also be on the agenda. Dr. Davidson, Dr. York, Dr. Breitmeyer and Dr. Ugstad will be speaking and be available for questions and answers. For more information or directions, call the UCCE at 559-685-3303.

Pierce's Disease Media Training - Media training for Assistant and Deputy County Agricultural Commissioners who coordinate media inquiries on Pierce's disease and the glassy-winged sharpshooter is scheduled for January 23, 2003, in Red Bluff. The training will include a PowerPoint presentation, outreach material, and simulated media interviews.

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Nursery Subcommittee Meeting - Pierce's Disease Program staff will attend the Nursery Subcommittee meeting on January 26, 2002, at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Discussion topics will focus on treatment protocols for nursery shipments to northern counties of the state.

California Citrus Quality Council's Annual Meeting - The CCQC 2003 Annual Meeting is scheduled at the Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Avenue on Thursday, January 30, 2003. The keynote speaker for CCQC's Annual Meeting will be Ms. Ellen Terpstra, Administrator for the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service. Dr. Hugh "Wally" Ewart, President of CCQC will give a perspective of the major accomplishments and goals of CCQC in his speech entitled "CCQC: The Year in Review". Contact the Radisson Hotel Visalia at (559) 636-1111 for accommodations. If you have any questions, call Carleen Price at (530) 885-1894 or at ccqc1314@pacbell.net.

California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association Interim Board of Directors Meeting - The CACASA Interim BOD meeting is will be held at the California Farm Bureau Office, 2300 River Plaza Drive in Sacramento on February 5 & 6, 2003.

California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association Spring Conference - The CACASA Spring Conference is scheduled for May 19-23, 2003 in South Lake Tahoe. For additional information contact Ted Davis at (661) 868-6300, or Bill Snodgrass at (530) 621-5520.

Western Weights and Measures Technical Conference - The 2003 Western Weights and Measures Technical Conference is scheduled for September 14 -19, 2003 at the Piccadilly Inn-University in Fresno.

PLEASE NOTE: Items listed above are meant to aid communication, to keep you and your staffs informed on events and issues affecting CDFA and county agriculture commissioners and sealers. Many items are abbreviated to conserve space and time required for reading. If you have news items that you would like to share with other agricultural commissioners and sealers, or questions on any item, please call me at (916) 653-6649. For additional information please visit the County/State Liaison website at <http://www.cdca.ca.gov/exec/cl/>.